



Helping low-income seniors in Chicago remain independent for over 30 years.

H.O.M.E.ward: Our New Strategic Plan

We are proud to announce that our board of directors recently approved a new five-year strategic plan. Led by Stacy French Reynolds from Anchor Advisors and with input from our donors, partners, staff, and board, we created a plan that:

- Strengthens our ability to provide services for low-income seniors in Chicago as the need for our programs is in high demand locally and nationally.
- Sets the direction and establishes priorities for the next five years. This will help our donors and volunteers understand exactly how their support makes an impact.
- Enables effective growth and sustainability while guiding in the selection and introduction of new board members and staff so that they will understand our values, culture, and direction.
- Bolsters mission-centered decision-making because we have identified our priorities and won't take on new ventures that are inconsistent with our goals.



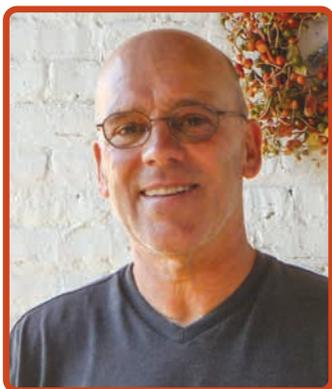
The plan focuses on five strategic goals and has defined the role of the board, staff, and executive director in completing them.

Among those goals is that H.O.M.E. will be recognized nationally as a model for fostering joy, connection, and independence for low-income seniors.

Marijo's experience personifies what we mean by fostering joy, connection, and independence. You may remember Marijo's story from our Annual Report. She has lived at Nathalie Salmon House for a little over a year now and recently told us at a party that things are going great for her.

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Meet Kornel: Part of the H.O.M.E. family



On any given day, you might find Kornel hammering or digging or painting something at Pat Crowley House.

Kornel and his wife Coleen have been donors to H.O.M.E. for many years. He found out about H.O.M.E. through his wife's family, who are close friends of the Crowley family.

Patrick and Patty Crowley were also dear friends of H.O.M.E. and our founders Michel and Lilo Salmon. In honor of the family's involvement, the first intergenerational building opened by H.O.M.E. was named for Patrick Crowley when it was established in 1983.

So when Kornel retired from teaching foreign languages in a suburban school system and began looking for a place that he could put some of his free time and varied skills to use, Pat Crowley House seemed to be a great place to start.

Since March, Kornel has been volunteering his handy skills a couple of days a week to make improvements to the six-flat in Edgewater. His work has ranged from making structural repairs to the garage to reattaching a lightshade. One day he helped a new senior resident install a wardrobe in his bedroom.

Kornel likes that he is able to help around the building, but what he likes best is getting to know the residents. He says, "The residents at Pat Crowley House feel like a family."

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Our Mission

H.O.M.E. helps low-income seniors in Chicago maintain their independence by providing home upkeep and repair, a shopping bus, a moving program, and three affordable, intergenerational buildings.

H.O.M.E. serves seniors in a warm and caring manner by focusing on the whole person, not just their immediate needs.

For more information about our services, contact:

Mike Laz,
Operations and Volunteer Coordinator at (773) 295-2709 or MikeL@HOMEseniors.org

Caren Arden-Tabani,
Housing Coordinator at (773) 465-3685

Board of Directors:

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Founders

Bruce A. Otto, D. Min.,
Executive Director

Amber Martin, MPA,
Director of Development

Janet Takehara, M.Ed.,
Program Director

Seasonal Volunteer Program

It's been another productive painting season! Every summer, with the help of dedicated volunteers from faith-based youth groups, corporations and schools, we paint hundreds of rooms in the homes of seniors, brightening and freshening living spaces and making them more comfortable places for the seniors and others.



But these groups do more than just add a coat of paint to homes. As one of our clients said after her home was painted, "Thanks to the hard work from these wonderful youngsters I can invite people over again because I am not ashamed of my home."

Our painting program harkens back to a time that our founders, Michel and Lilo Salmon, described as "the most productive, the most unique, the most helpful and by far the dirtiest two years of H.O.M.E.'s existence." In the late 1980s, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development withheld funds for the maintenance and upkeep of all Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) properties.



This severely limited the units available to H.O.M.E.'s clients and other seniors, despite many vacancies in CHA senior buildings. The Salmons negotiated an arrangement with CHA in which H.O.M.E. would clean and paint senior apartments throughout the city at no cost to CHA. Over the next two years, an army of volunteers and staff cleaned and painted

over 1,000 senior apartments.

Flash forward a couple of decades, and Catholic HEART Workcamp returned for their sixth painting season with us, in what has been an enriching partnership for all involved. SHINE Catholic Work Camp and Experience Mission have also worked with us in the past few years, and we were thrilled to welcome YouthWorks as a new painting partner this year.

These volunteer groups provide all the paint and materials needed for each painting project. Without their generosity and enthusiastic support, this program would not be possible.

One of the most gratifying aspects of our painting program is connecting seniors with great young people who are working in their homes. Promoting and nurturing intergenerational relationships is central to our mission.



In the beginning, when seniors hear that there will be a group of young people coming into their home for a few days, there is often

initial apprehension. But once the kids are there, it only takes a few hours before a positive relationship has developed. By day two, the senior is baking cookies and having lunch with the kids.

When the work is done, e-mails and addresses are exchanged so the volunteers and seniors can keep in touch with each other—intergenerational friendships in the making!

As we head into fall, a new season of volunteering begins. Volunteer groups are needed to weatherize homes to help seniors prepare for winter. If you would like to participate in this enriching program please contact Mike Laz at 773-295-2709 or mikel@homeseniors.org.

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Since moving from a homeless shelter into Good Life Senior Residences, Marijo's health has improved and she is more independent. She has less to worry about and more time to do what she loves best—she calls her children, the joy of her life, as often as she can.

Marijo says, "That's why I love it here. They help me keep my things going." We believe that our strategic plan will lead to being able to bring joy to many more people like Marijo in the years ahead.

From identifying opportunities to expand to ensuring that we have the culture, leadership, and resources to pursue our mission, we have aimed high with our goals and we need support from people like you to achieve those goals. If you would like to learn more about H.O.M.E.'s strategic plan or would like to get involved as a volunteer, committee, or board member please contact Bruce Otto at 773-295-2711 or BruceO@homeseniors.org.

Join us at the Glenwood Sunday Market

Each season, Glenwood Sunday Market works with organizations that provide food to people in the local community. The Market invites nonprofits who address food security to staff a table, share information with shoppers, and accept donations of market-bought produce and other items.



H.O.M.E. is proud to be a food access partner of the Glenwood Sunday Market for the third

year. The food donated when we are at the Market provides farm fresh food to our residents who live in Good Life Senior Residences.

We had a great time at the Market in July talking with our Rogers Park neighbors about our programs. We will be at the Market again on September 25th and October 16th.

Please consider stopping by and purchasing a little extra produce or other foods and learn more about our programs from our staff, volunteers, and clients.

Last year was a great season at the Market, and our residents enjoyed the wide variety of produce and meat in the donations. Help us continue that success!

The Market is held on Glenwood Avenue between Morse & Lunt on the west side of the CTA tracks every Sunday.

Meet Kornel: Part of the H.O.M.E. family

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Since he is now a frequent visitor he feels that he is becoming a part of the family, too.

Earlier this summer, our Housing Coordinator Caren asked Kornel if he would lead a group of teenagers who were volunteering to paint the garage. Kornel agreed and was able to use some of his "teacher skills" as he organized the young people. He recalls that the young volunteers did a great job painting but that he especially enjoyed seeing them socialize with the older residents.

"That's what we need. It is such a fantastic

idea to have low-income people live in an environment like this."

Our intergenerational buildings offer a warm environment where seniors connect and share with people of all generations. Not only do seniors live in our buildings, but families with children and younger adults live there as well. This blending of generations creates a community that enhances understanding of one another, and helps reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation in seniors.

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Volunteers are extraordinary!

Here are just a few ways you can help:

Guest Chef in Good Life Senior Residences

Interior Painting

Visit with seniors

Weatherize homes in the fall



To find out more, visit www.homeseniors.org/volunteer

How do you want to hear from us?

Visit www.homeseniors.org/signup.html to let us know!

For frequent updates, follow us on social media:

 www.facebook.com/HOMEseniors

 www.twitter.com/housingops

 <http://tinyurl.com/homeseniors>



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Nathalie Salmon House

7320 North Sheridan Road
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Pat Crowley House

1537 West Rosemont Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60660
(773) 465-3685

Blackhawk Manor

4959 West Medill Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60639
(773) 343-8546

Making an Impact... by the Numbers

You already know H.O.M.E. helps low-income seniors live independently by providing home repairs, a shopping bus, affordable housing, and moving assistance. But do you recognize all the ways H.O.M.E. serves them, and, the impact of your support?

So far this year:

- The shopping bus program provided **2,438** shopping trips to grocery stores and pharmacies for seniors living in isolation or food deserts
- Upkeep and Repair Program performed **503** repairs in **114** low-income senior households
- Intergenerational Housing Program provided affordable housing to **61** seniors and **29** younger adults and children.



- The Moving Program moved **26 seniors** into their new homes within Chicago.
- **Over 300 volunteers** weatherized 28 and painted 23 senior homes, served as guest chefs, sponsored senior activities for our residents, and more.

Thank you for your generous support that helps seniors to maintain their independence and remain active in their communities.

Meet Kornel: Part of the H.O.M.E. family *(Continued from page 3)*

When asked why others should consider volunteering or giving to H.O.M.E. Kornel replied, "If you like having human contact this is the perfect place to do it."

When Kornel isn't volunteering at H.O.M.E., he spends his retirement watching soccer or traveling to his native Germany and spending time with his wife, four children, and two

grandchildren.

If you would like to follow in Kornel's footsteps and get involved with H.O.M.E., visit our website at <http://www.homeseniors.org/Volunteer.html> or call us at 773-921-3200.